

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00
INRE-00 ACDE-00 /026 W
-----119195 241523Z /43
P 241457Z JAN 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5036
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T GENEVA 01023

EXDIS

USSALT TWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR EARLE'S STATEMENT OF JANUARY 24, 1978
(SALT TWO-1578)

1. THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR
EARLE AT SALT TWO MEETING OF JANUARY 24, 1978:

- STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR EARLE
- JANUARY 24, 1978

MR. MINISTER:

- I

TODAY I WOULD LIKE TO RETURN TO THE ISSUE OF AIR-TO-
SURFACE BALLISTIC MISSILES. ALTHOUGH THIS MATTER HAS BEEN
UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SOME TIME, THE SIDES HAVE NOT AS
YET FULLY RESOLVED THIS ISSUE. THE SIDES HAVE AGREED ON
A NUMBER OF PROVISIONS REGARDING ASBMS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE
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HAVE AGREED ON MOST ASPECTS OF THE DEFINITION OF ASBMS
AND ON HOW THEY WILL BE COUNTED IN THE AGGREGATE. IN
ADDITION, WE HAVE AGREED ON A RULE FOR DETERMINING THE
NUMBER OF THESE MISSILES WHICH SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE
AGGREGATE FOR EACH PLATFORM EQUIPPED FOR ASBMS.

HOWEVER, SOME PROVISIONS REMAIN UNRESOLVED. IN

PARTICULAR, THE SOVIET DELEGATION HAS PROPOSED A PROHIBITION ON THE DEVELOPMENT, TESTING AND DEPLOYMENT OF AIR-TO-SURFACE MISSILES EQUIPPED WITH MULTIPLE INDEPENDENTLY TARGETABLE WARHEADS FOR THE PERIOD OF THE TREATY. THIS WOULD, IN EFFECT, BAN MIRVED ASBMS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE UNITED STATES HAS PROPOSED THAT MIRVED ASBMS BE PERMITTED AND BE SUBJECT TO THE APPROPRIATE PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY.

- II

IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE OUR REMAINING DIFFERENCES, AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF THE SOVIET UNION, THE UNITED STATES PROPOSES THAT THE FLIGHT-TESTING AND DEPLOYMENT OF ALL ASBMS, BOTH MIRVED AND NON-MIRVED, BE PROHIBITED FOR THE PERIOD OF THE PROTOCOL. THIS PROPOSAL ASSUMES NO CHANGE IN THOSE PROVISIONS RELATING TO ASBMS WHICH ARE ALREADY AGREED AND IS CONTINGENT UPON SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF THE OTHER PROPOSALS OF THE UNITED STATES RELATING TO ASBMS IN THE TREATY.

A PROHIBITION ON FLIGHT-TESTING AND DEPLOYMENT OF ASBMS FOR THE PERIOD OF THE PROTOCOL WOULD ALLOW EACH SIDE TO ASSESS THE DESIRABILITY OF PERMITTING THESE WEAPONS AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THEIR DEPLOYMENT.

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- III

THE UNITED STATES THEREFORE PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE FOR A NEW ARTICLE IV OF THE PROTOCOL:

"EACH PARTY UNDERTAKES NOT TO FLIGHT-TEST OR DEPLOY ASBMS."

- IV

MR. MINISTER, I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR RESPONSE TO THE CONSIDERATIONS I HAVE SET FORTH TODAY. EARLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, SALT (ARMS CONTROL)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA01023
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780035-0686
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780130/aaaaazha.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ffec24e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3726768
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR EARLE'S STATEMENT OF JANUARY 24, 1978 (SALT TWO-1578)
TAGS: PARM, US, SZ, UR, (EARLE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ffec24e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014